



Climbing Vines

CLIMBING/ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET *Celastrus orbiculatus*



- ✿ **Status:** **Non-Native/Exotic, Invasive. This species is prohibited in New Hampshire.**
- ✿ **Habitat:** Disturbed areas, roadsides, fields, forests, and edges of streams and rivers.
- ✿ **Height:** 40-65 feet long deciduous woody vine. Very aggressive, climbs up and over trees and chokes them.
- ✿ **Stem:** Tanish, furrowed.
- ✿ **Leaves:** Alternate, ovate, blunly toothed, 3-4 inches long, tapered at the base.
- ✿ **Flower:** Small, greenish clusters in the leaf axils.
- ✿ **Flowering Period:** April through May.
- ✿ **Fruit:** Bright-yellow splitting open to reveal showy, orange/red fruit.



POISON IVY

Toxicodendron radicans



Poison ivy showing fruit.

- ✿ **Status:** Native.
- ✿ **Habitat:** Generalist. Variety of soil, moisture and light conditions. Found in recent clear-cuts.
- ✿ **Height:** Upright deciduous shrub, trailing vine, or climbing plant. Shrub can grow up to 6 feet tall, but this plant is taller as a vine.
- ✿ **Leaves:** Long-stalked compound leaves divided into 3 leaflets, each leaflet having a longer stalk than the side leaflets.
- ✿ **Flowers:** Small yellowish flowers with 5 petals occurring on lateral clusters.
- ✿ **Flowering Period:** May through July.
- ✿ **Fruit:** Greenish to grayish-white berries, lacking hairs. Produced in late summer and can persist throughout winter.

CAUTION!

TOUCHING OR BURNING ANY PART OF THIS PLANT CAN CAUSE SEVERE SKIN IRRITATION.



Poison ivy as a tree-climbing vine.



Poison ivy in autumn.

RIVERBANK GRAPE

Vitis riparia



- ✿ **Status:** Native.
- ✿ **Habitat:** Forested wetlands, floodplains, edges of streams and rivers.
- ✿ **Height:** Up to 60 feet tall.
- ✿ **Bark:** Reddish-brown in loose strips. Pith with thin, firm tissue.
- ✿ **Leaves:** Alternate, coarse-toothed, up to 7 inches long with usually 3-5 lobes and narrow-pointed leaves.
- ✿ **Flowers:** Inconspicuous, in branched clusters.
- ✿ **Flowering Period:** May through July.
- ✿ **Fruit:** Purplish-black to black grapes, up to ½ inch wide with whitish, waxy covering.
- ✿ **Similar Species:** Forest grape (*Vitis vulpina*) occurs in similar habitats but its leaves have broad teeth and are not usually lobed and its grapes are black and lacking waxy coating.



VIRGINIA CREEPER

Parthenosisus quinquefolia



- ✿ **Status:** Native
- ✿ **Habitat:** Wide range of conditions; dry sandy soil to moist nutrient-rich soil, shade, sun.
- ✿ **Stem:** Woody stem persisting into winter.
- ✿ **Leaves:** Alternate, palmately compound, with 3-7 but usually 5 leaflets. Leaflets 6-12 centimeters long with toothed margins. Turn deep-red in the fall
- ✿ **Flower:** Inconspicuous green-white.
- ✿ **Fruit:** Small, blue-black berries, appearing in autumn.
- ✿ **Comments:** Climbs by tendrils that have oval adhesive disks at their tips.
- ✿ **Similar Species:** Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) has compound leaves with 3 leaflets but the terminal leaflet is attached to a short-stalk. Poison ivy also climbs by aerial roots not by adhesive disks.

